

CHAPTER 5 - OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES SPILLS

5-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes guidance for developing spill plan documents for spills involving USACE or USACE contractor operations on USACE owned or leased land.

5-2. Applicability.

a. This guidance applies to USACE commands having responsibility for civil works-funded facilities and activities, including floating plant. USACE military-funded facilities and activities are subject to guidance provided in AR 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement. Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) program activities and projects are subject to guidance provided in CEMP-RT memorandum, 20 Jul 95, subject: Spill Reporting Procedures for USACE Personnel Involved in HTRW Projects.

b. The term "Commander/Director" is used to refer to the organizational leader, such as the District Commander, Laboratory Director, FOA Director, etc.

5-3. Spill Plan Documents.

a. For vessels, Vessel Response Plan guidance was distributed in CECW-OD memorandum dated 24 May 93, subject: Shipboard Oil Spill Emergency Plans. Guidance for onshore facilities is provided below.

b. HQUSACE recommends using a single spill plan document format to meet all the requirements specified in various regulations for the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan; the Spill Contingency Plan; the Emergency Response Plan; and the Emergency Action Plan. Appendix B, Spill and Emergency Plan Review Process, provides guidance on determining which, if any, of these four related plans might be required. Guidance on developing plans is in Appendix C, Recommended Organization of a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP).

c. USACE facility spill plans will identify potential spill site locations, specific measures to be taken in case of a spill from those facilities or activities, and what level of emergency spill response is expected from USACE personnel to provide that response. The plan will also specify at what emergency spill response level USACE personnel at that location will be trained, and the Commander/Director will assure that USACE personnel are not responding at levels beyond their qualifications or authorization. (See Appendix D, Training Requirements for Spill Response.)

d. Responsibility to assure that USACE facility spill plans are promptly developed and adequately meet requirements rests with the functional element responsible for the operation of the facility. In many cases, this will be the Operations element, but in some cases it may be Engineering, Construction Logistics or Emergency Management. The functional element may write the spill plan itself or may enlist the aid of other Corps elements, other agencies or contractors to obtain an effective plan. No matter who actually develops the plan, involvement of facility personnel is important.